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CELAYA  
TUCSON

A man faces murder charges because he threatened to expose intelligence work in Mexico by a former CIA agent, a defense lawyer said.

Pretrial arguments were heard Tuesday in the case against Genarao Celaya. He is accused in the November 1979 shooting death of Department of Public Safety narcotics officer John Walker.

Walker was gunned down at Tucson International Airport.

Former CIA agent Hugh Murray said he once employed Celaya as an informant. Although Murray said he joined the Drug Enforcement Administration in 1974, Walter Nash, Celaya's attorney, claimed Murray never left the CIA.

Nash told Superior Court Judge G. Thomas Meehan that Murray's work in Mexico went "far beyond what he said he did as a drug agent" and said this was the basis for the entrapment that put Celaya at the scene of the shooting.

The prosecution claims the shooting was simply a ripoff during a cocaine bust. The DPS agent was carrying \$88,000 in cash when he was shot. Investigators found no drugs at the scene.

The trial before Meehan may last about a month. Jury selection was expected to begin Wednesday.

Celaya was tried once for the killing but the state Supreme Court overturned the prison sentence of 25 years to life and ordered a new trial.

One issue facing Meehan is to what extent the attorneys will be allowed to question Murray's CIA background and activity.

Murray reportedly was involved in intelligence work in Vietnam in the 1960s and allegedly had a role in tracking down Cuban revolutionary Ernesto "Che" Guevara, who was slain the mountains of Bolivia in 1969.